Salisbury University Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

Vol. 11, Issue 5, May 2004

Announcement

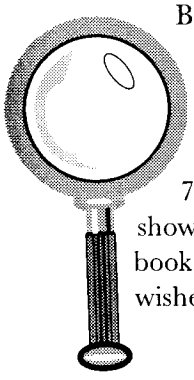
The Nabb Research Center would like to congratulate Natasha Jones on her extremely well written biographical sketch on the life and times of 17th-century settler, Richard Chambers. She has been selected as the winner of the spring 2004 Miles-Stevenson Student Prize in History. This award is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Marelynn Zipser to commemorate her ancestors.

Tasha is currently a junior at Salisbury University majoring in history and archaeology. She has spent a lot of time at the Nabb Center researching primary documents and also working with other students in the Center's Archaeology Lab. Her biographical sketch on Richard Chambers will appear in the September *Shoreline* under the "Student Research" category. Stay tuned for a great paper that examines a variety of resources such as death inventories, wills and testaments, land records, church records, old debt books and many more. Tasha's project provides the modern-day researcher with a sense of what everyday life was like on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia in the mid-1600s in vivid historical context.

Natasha Jones

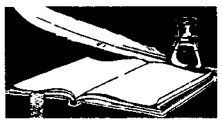
Historical Mystery

Leonard Guttridge of Alexandria, VA, is a well-known author of books on naval history. He is currently writing a biography titled, *The Life of Stephen Decatur*, and needs the public's help on solving a mystery that has arisen in his research. In a Delaware newspaper called *The Wilmington Daily Commercial*, on December 22, 1874, an article was written about Decatur and his acquittal from a peculiar trial prior to his becoming a naval officer. Guttridge has become intrigued by the article, but he cannot seem to figure out who wrote it. It was signed by a mysterious person known as the "special correspondent in Berlin, MD" going by the name "Occassional." The article also mentions the lawyers involved in the Decatur case who were Gunning Bedford and John (or possibly William) Sergeant. If anyone can provide Guttridge with the identity of this "occassional" newspaper correspondent, he would greatly appreciate it. He can be contacted at 703-823-5486. Who knows, you might even show up in the acknowledgements section of his book! Guttridge thanks all of you in advance and wishes you good luck and happy hunting!



Spotlight on Preservation: Thinking About the Past

Michael Dixon, historian at the Cecil County Historical Society, presented a plan for research into house histories in his "If This Place Could Talk: Researching the History of An Old House" lecture sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council and the Nabb Center on May 4. Main points were to think broadly, stay organized and use a research plan. Dixon emphasized that the social history of the house is critical, so learning about its various owners is a vital part of the research process. Part of the research plan should include investigation of what may have already been researched about the property, "attic archaeology" from the house, oral histories from neighbors who may have known the owners and documentary data such as land records, civil suits, probate and tax records.



MARYLAND HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Salisbury University Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture

Celebrate Preservation Month

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Reminder

The Second Annual Settler's of the Eastern Shore Evenlight at Clifton, Somerset County, MD, will be on Saturday, May 22, 2004. It is promised to be an inspiring evening of good company, fabulous food and potent potables. There will be a silent auction and tours of the historical grounds for those interested. If you have not already received your ticket please call the Nabb Center at 410-543-6312 to secure your reservation. Check out our Web site for more pictures and information at http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu, then click on "News."

Closings

The Nabb Research Center will be closed on Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.

Iris, by Rebecca Brooks

Congratulations to our Nabb Center graduates:

Rebecca Kellar
student employee

Erin McKenzie
student intern

Jennifer Ward
student employee

Mercedes Quesada-Embid
graduate research assistant